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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/743,632	12/22/2003	Michael N. Burdenko	8561AFP/GDM	7405
20349	7590	06/13/2005		
EXAMINER				
TRAN, HUAN HUU				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		2861		

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/743,632	BURDENKO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Huan H. Tran	2861	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 7-9 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 22 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/29/04</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 6 objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 6, line 2, " is" (second occurrence) should be changed to – its--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Nakagawa (US Patent No. 5132704).

With respect to claim 1, Nakagawa discloses a thermal printer assembly, comprising:

a plurality of elongated thermal print heads (heads 20-22 in Fig. 1 for example);

and

a frame (element 11 at Col. 2, line 67 to Col. 3, line 4) adapted to fixedly mount

and align said plurality of print heads in parallel to print across a single print media path

(2).

With respect to claim 3, it is clearly seen in Fig. 1 that each of the plurality of elongated printheads 20-22 has a printing length, and further wherein said frame 11 is adapted to position said print heads to print across a print media width, which is substantially equal to a total of said printing lengths of said plurality of print heads.

As to claim 4, it is clearly seen that each of the plurality of print heads 20-22 is positioned to print at a different sequential location long said print media path. Note that the print media path is defined in paragraph [015] of the specification to be the width of the print media.

As to claim 5, it is clearly seen in Fig. 1 of Nakagawa that separate platen rollers 53-55 adapted for pressuring print media 6 against each of said print heads 20-22.

As to claim 6, it is seen in Fig. 1 of Nakagawa that each said platen roller 53-55 is not substantially longer than its respective elongated thermal print head 20-22.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagawa in

view of Kaiya et al. (US Patent No. 4660052).

Nakagawa discloses essentially the claimed invention except that it does not appear to teach the limitation " wherein said frame is adapted to align said print heads with overlap in the

Art Unit: 2861

direction of the print media path to print across substantially different lateral portions of said print media path".

Kaiya et al teaches the concept of arranging a plurality of printheads with overlap in the direction of the print media path (the width direction of the print media as defined in paragraph [015] of the specification) so that " electronic stitching" of images can be carried out. See Figs. 2, 3 and the detailed description thereof.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Kaiya et al and Nakagawa so that " electronic stitching" of images can be carried out.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 7, 8, 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Art Unit: 2861

Claims 7 and 8 are allowable at least for the inclusion of the limitation " wherein each said platen roller determines a curvature in said print media path, and further comprising a member having a low friction surface adapted to mimic said curvature of at least one said platen roller in alignment therewith across a lateral portion of the print media path not spanned by said at least one platen roller."

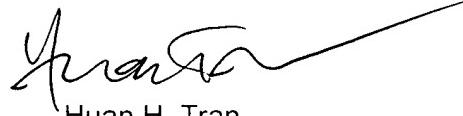
Claim 9 is allowable for the inclusion of the limitation " wherein said frame is adapted to position said plurality of thermal print heads to print from a first side of said print media path, and further comprising a second plurality of elongated thermal print heads fixedly mounted to said frame for printing from a second opposing side of said print media path."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huan H. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-2261. The examiner can normally be reached on at work on W-F from 6:30 to 5; T are telework days.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Talbott can be reached on (571) 272-1934. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2861

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Huan H. Tran

Primary Examiner

Art Unit 2861

hht

06/09/05